

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following new paragraph after the Title and before the first paragraph on page 1:

-- This application is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/JP05/000559, filed January 19, 2005, which in turn claims the benefit of Japanese Application No. 2004-013107, filed January 21, 2004, the disclosures of which Applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 5 and ending on page 9, line 21 with the following:

In order to solve the above-mentioned problems, a fuel cell system according to the present invention includes: a fuel cell; fuel gas supply means for supplying a fuel gas to an anode of the fuel cell; oxidant gas supply means for supplying an oxidant gas to a cathode of the fuel cell; inert gas supply means for supplying an inert gas to the anode and/or cathode of the fuel cell; and means for measuring a pressure P_a in an inlet-side flow path leading to the anode of the fuel cell and a pressure P_c in an inlet-side flow path leading to the cathode. The fuel cell is subjected to a purge operation of replacing the fuel gas and/or oxidant gas in the fuel cell with the inert gas supplied from the inert gas supply means when the fuel cell is started up or shut-down. The fuel cell system further includes control means for increasing or decreasing the amount of the inert gas supplied to the fuel cell based on the values of P_a and P_c during the purge operation of the fuel cell. The differential pressure ΔP is defined as $P = P_a - P_c$, and the

during operation ΔPo and the differential pressure during the purge operation ΔPp satisfy the relation relations: $0 < \Delta Po \times \Delta Pp$ and $|\Delta Pp| \leq |\Delta Po|$.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 23 and ending on page 9, line 24 and replace it with the following paragraph:

~~Preferably, ΔPo and ΔPp satisfy $|\Delta Pp| \leq |\Delta Po|$. Preferably, $\Delta Po = \Delta Pp$.~~

According to the present invention, since the relation between ΔPo and ΔPp can be controlled favorably, it is possible to prevent this relation from becoming $\Delta Po \times \Delta Pp \leq 0$ even temporarily.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 25 and ending on page 10, line 7 and replace it with the following paragraph:

~~In a preferable embodiment of the present invention, the system includes means for increasing or decreasing the amount of the inert gas supplied to the fuel cell based on the values of Pa and Pc during the purge operation of the fuel cell. According to this embodiment, since the relation between ΔPo and ΔPp can be controlled favorably, it is possible to prevent this relation from becoming $\Delta Po \times \Delta Pp \leq 0$ even temporarily.~~

It is preferred that ΔPo and ΔPp satisfy the relation: $\Delta Po = \Delta Pp$.